

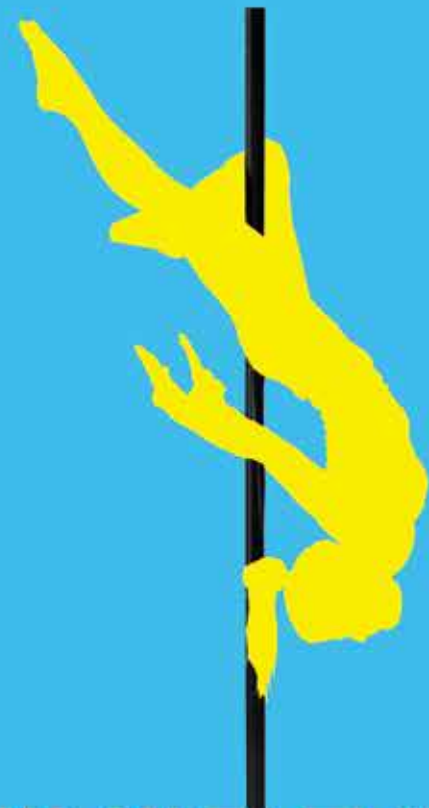
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STAFF LIST

Jacey Gibb
Editor-in-chief
✉ editor@theotherpress.ca

Natalie Serafini
Assistant Editor
✉ assistant@theotherpress.ca

Angela Ho
Business Manager
✉ accounting@theotherpress.ca

Chris Paik
Distribution Manager

Cody Klyne
Layout Manager

Joel McCarthy
Graphics Manager

Ed Appleby
Illustrator

Jony Roy
Social Media Coordinator

Patrick Vaillancourt
News Editor
✉ news@theotherpress.ca

Cheryl Minns
Arts Editor
✉ arts@theotherpress.ca

Sophie Isbister
Life & Style Editor
✉ lifeandstyle@theotherpress.ca

Elliot Chan
Opinions Editor
✉ opinions@theotherpress.ca

Eric Wilkins
Sports Editor
✉ sports@theotherpress.ca

Courtnie Martin
Sports Reporter

Sharon Miki
Humour Editor
✉ humour@theotherpress.ca

Cazzy Lewchuk
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By www.kiss925.com

Lay some sugar daddy on me



Jacey Gibb
Editor-in-chief
✉ editor@theotherpress.ca

Paying for a post-secondary education is super easy, right? As someone with a mountain of disposable income lying on my bedroom floor, paying for rent and living expenses while in I'm in school full-time has never been less stressful.

Seriously, though. Every student I know is struggling to balance at least one (thought usually more) job with their academia. It's easy to fall into the trap of proclaiming that students of today have it harder than the generations before us, but let's just all agree that juggling everything at once can be demanding for anyone. With financial reprieve from the government or post-secondary institutions becoming more and more unlikely, I guess we should be thankful there are still people out there looking out for us students.

Like sugar daddies.

No, this isn't a type of parent who showers their children in sweets and cavities. A sugar daddy is an older, financially secure male who engages in relations with younger women in exchange for money. It's been compared to

prostitution, but the two vary in the type of relationship the sugar daddy and baby share, the longevity it has, and the expectations that come with it. And contrary to what you might think, a sugar baby isn't actually required to have sex with a sugar daddy—though they usually are.

Think no one would ever consider being in one of these pairings? The 2.7 million people who are currently registered to SeekingArrangements.com would disagree with you. Now considered to be the largest sugar daddy website on the web, SeekingArrangements is hardly alone. Type "sugar daddies" into any search engine and you'll be welcomed by pages upon pages of similar sites, including SugarDaddie.com, SugarSugar.com, and SugarDaddyCanada.com.

It's not like the concept of having a sugar daddy is a modern one either. Years ago, a friend of mine was lamenting to me about how badly she wanted a money slave—someone who becomes sexually aroused by giving another person money. A costly kink, but if both parties are satisfied, then where's the harm? If we're being honest here, some "normal" relationships operate in the exact same way, with one person paying for everything

anyways. Pouring copious amounts of money into a partner who's just not that into you isn't a new thing; sugar daddy websites have just found a way to institutionalize it.

Does the world of sugar daddies seem like a far-off one? Think again. In terms of new students registering last year, both Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia were in the top 20—at #7 and #15, respectively. In 2013, 174 people between the two institutions signed up to be paired with a sugar daddy. Douglas College—either thankfully or regretfully, depending on your feelings towards sugar daddies—did not make the top 20 list.

While I would never myself be involved in one of the relationships (I am neither financially sound nor an attractive female), I support the rise in sugar daddies 100 per cent.

First off, let's remember that to be eligible for this type of arrangement, the sugar baby must be at least 18 years old. These are relationships between two grown, consenting adults. No one is being forced into signing up and no one is forcing them to continue doing it. Assumedly these individuals are using protection too during any extracurriculars, so there

should be no danger to the sugar baby's health.

In my experience, the most common reaction to sugar daddies is how degrading it must be for the women who sign up. I'm glad the war on slut shaming has become so prominent in recent years because that's exactly what these reactions are fostering. There is nothing shameful about consensual sex and as much as you want to pass judgment, that right doesn't belong to you. If a woman wants to use her body to help pay for her education or even just so she has some extra ched' in the bank, then it's her decision to make.

Instead of focussing on things like sugar daddies, how about looking at one of the reasons why they exist? A driving force for students is the encumbering cost of post-secondary (which, according to SeekingArrangements, will have tripled between 1990 and 2017). If an alternative exists where someone can graduate from post-secondary without incurring this sort of outrageous debt, then let people pursue it without unsolicited criticism.

So it goes,

Jacey Gibb
Editor-in-chief

Get to know us!

- ☑ The Other Press has been Douglas College's student newspaper since 1976. Since 1978 we have been an autonomous publication, independent of the student union. We are a registered society under the Society Act of British Columbia, governed by an eight-person board of directors appointed by our staff. Our head office is located in the New Westminster campus.
- ☑ The Other Press is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly during the summer. We receive our funding from a student levy collected through tuition fees every semester at registration, and from local and national advertising revenue. The Other Press is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a syndicate of student newspapers that includes papers from all across Canada.
- ☑ The Other Press reserves the right to choose what we will publish, and we will not publish material that is hateful, obscene, or condones or promotes illegal activities. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity if necessary. All images used are copyright to their respective owners.



This issue:

- ✓ Idle No More event presents 13-year-old activist
 - ✓ Russian parliament approves plan to invade Ukraine
 - ✓ Civil servants attack Gangnam street vendors
- And more!

Have an idea for a story? Let us know!

Contact: Patrick Vaillancourt, News Editor

✉ news@theotherpress.ca

www.theotherpress.ca

Conservative brand in trouble

» Dramatic downturn in the number of Canadians identifying with Harper government



Patrick Vaillancourt
News Editor
✉ news@theotherpress.ca

A poll conducted annually and presented to a Conservative-friendly conference is raising a number of alarms within government circles.

The poll, conducted by Carleton University professor André Turcotte and presented to the Manning Centre shows that Canadians are jumping off the Conservative bandwagon in key battleground provinces, including British Columbia and Ontario.

Turcotte told the conference attendees on February 28 that the state of conservatism in Canada is “[headed] in the wrong direction.”

In British Columbia, the number of people who identified as being Conservative fell 13 percentage points, from 33 per cent to 20 per cent. A similar decline took place in Ontario, where the numbers dipped to 25 per cent—a 10-point decline from last year’s result.

This is particularly damaging for the Harper government, which has invested so much time and money attempting to build up a support base in these provinces, especially in the more diverse urban communities and in cities and towns with a high concentration of new immigrant voters.

Turcotte also emphasized to conference attendees that the news gets worse for the governing Conservatives when examining Canadians’ attitudes on which of the federal political parties handle some of the key issues. On almost all of the issues studied, Stephen Harper’s Conservatives ranked either as good as the Liberal Party under Justin Trudeau, or well-below the other political parties.

For example, on the management of the economy, the voters seem to be as confident with the Conservatives as they are with the Liberals.

Other issues, such as health care and unemployment, show the Conservatives trailing the Liberals. On the management

of the environment, the Conservatives trail the Liberals, NDP, and the Green Party.

The Conservative brand has been damaged some in the last year, with the revelation of expense scandals in the Senate, the release of damning evidence indicating that the Conservatives engaged in a widespread voter suppression campaign in the last federal election, and environmental disasters. The poll also found that 93 per cent either “somewhat support” or “strongly support” closer inspection of “electoral wrongdoings,” as well as transparency on spending of public funds. Similarly, 92 per cent either “somewhat support” or “strongly support” greatly accountability to caucuses.

The Manning Centre is a conservative think-tank headed by former Reform Party leader Preston Manning. The Reform Party was the Western Canadian offshoot which merged with the Progressive Conservative Party in 2004 to create today’s Conservative Party of Canada.



Stephen Harper // By www.mykvetch.com

Douglas Learning Centre offers hands-on computer skills training

» Peer tutoring teaches computer skills, science



Cazy Lewchuk
Staff Writer

Working with computers is a task students will face almost constantly. It extends far beyond complicated programs relating directly to a computer science class; even simple tasks like formatting in Microsoft Word or creating a PowerPoint presentation are challenges a student may face in a class. The basic skills involved in working a computer are often misunderstood or unknown by a surprising number of people. That’s where tutors

at the Douglas College Learning Centre step in.

Located in room A1040 at the Coquitlam campus, and in the library at the New Westminster campus, the Learning Centre offers free tutoring from experienced tutors on almost any subject—including the computer skills department.

Among the approximately 25 Douglas College students who work at David Lam, there are four who specialize in computer science and technology. These tutors are the ones who can help with a specific computer question, for those enrolled within courses in the Computer Sciences program or just anyone

who needs a tune-up on how to use a computer.

The services offered by computer skills tutors go far beyond just this field. Any questions relating to using the Internet or a computer program can be directed to them: this can include adding animations to a PowerPoint presentation, adding page numbers to a Word document, or creating a graph in Excel. Accessing the Internet for academic work can be a challenge, too. Students can also learn from these tutors how to access and use Blackboard, MyDouglas, or their student email.

Monika Sharma, a second-year Computer Science student, is one of the

four computer skills tutors at the Learning Centre. Her specialization in tutoring includes programming, computer languages, and general computer skills. She told the *Other Press*, “While I assist computer science majors or those taking a CSIS [Computing Science and Information Systems] class, I also help with many accounting or business majors with Excel.”

Sharma plans to continue her computer science studies and find a job in the field in the future. She shares the computer skills desk with the three other computer skills tutors. The computer skills desk offers walk-up help for quick computer-related ques-

tions, such as how to attach a file to an email. In addition, 25 or 50-minute appointments can be made for more in-depth tutoring sessions on computer-related questions.

The Learning Centre also offers a study group for computer sciences, specifically focussing on Windows Programming and the course CSIS 1175. This group meets in the Learning Centre at the Coquitlam campus on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

To book an appointment at the Learning Centre, you can book an appointment online at www.douglascollege.ca/learningcentre

Idle No More event presents 13-year-old activist

» Environmental and human rights activist Ta’Kaiya Blaney speaks at Douglas College



Julia Siedlanowska
Staff Writer

Ta’Kaiya Blaney made her debut as an environmental activist when she was just 10 years old. After learning about the Enbridge Pipeline project, the young Sliammon First Nation girl from North Vancouver wrote a song entitled “Shallow Waters”; this song was the catalyst to her activism. Blaney is now 13 years old, and she spoke at Douglas College in New Westminster on February 25 about her views on the environment and our way of life.

“When I was eight years old I stopped going to the regular school and I began to homeschool. What happened was I saw this news article about the Northern Gateway pipeline,” said Blaney during her talk at last week’s Idle No More event, organized by Douglas College’s aboriginal liaison, Sonia Keshane. Blaney went on to vividly describe the project as she sees it.

“It’s basically an oil pipeline going from the tar sands, the crude oil sands in Alberta, across the Rocky Mountains, and through 45 different first nations territories that have unique cultures, that have languages, and that have traditions,” she said.



Ta’Kaiya Blaney speaking at Douglas College // By DSU

She further described the route of the pipeline and how super tankers “that are longer than the Empire State Building” go to China and California to transport the oil. “And at that moment I just imagined this massive British Columbia in my head where I could see all the rocky islands and I just imagined catastrophe, I just imagined an oil spill. I imagined the days when you wouldn’t even be able to see a seagull or a bird fly by because there were no more. I imagined catastrophe, which meant no more culture, which is rooted so much to the land.”

Blaney then revealed that it was at that moment that

she decided to write her song. “Shallow Waters” is about the Northern Gateway Pipeline project. “I didn’t really think much of writing that song at the time. I thought of this as just something that I obviously care about but I’m not really going to do anything with the song. I’m not going to become an activist.”

It was footage of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico that prompted her to action. She submitted her song to the David Suzuki environmental song writing contest and it reached the semi-finals. “With the courage I got from seeing how my song could go so far I decided to connect myself with

Greenpeace,” said Blaney. After this move, she decided to go to the Enbridge headquarters in the Bentall Building in Vancouver to “talk to Endbridge about what my concerns were.”

“I planned to do this in a way where my words would bring attention to the Northern Gateway Pipeline, so I called way in advance,” says Blaney. When she got to the building, she recalls that it was surrounded with security guards. “I got about a few feet into the lobby and I was stopped by security guards and told that if I didn’t leave at that point I would be charged with trespassing. As a 10-year-old this was a very disappointing experience, being my first step in activism,” she says. “Later I realized this was also inspirational to see how unafraid indigenous people involved with Idle No More are—how unafraid these environmentalists and activist and people with passion in their hearts for Mother Earth and for other human beings, how unafraid we are in the face of these adversities and these corporations that are destroying our Mother Earth and destroying the future and my future, how unafraid we are and how afraid these corporations are of us.”

Blaney also spoke of her experiences attending youth conferences about environmental issues and

human rights, also expressing her belief that youth should demand a better future for themselves from their leaders.

She spoke of the Rio+20 Conference and her disappointment at how “green-washed” she found it to be. “They were speaking about sustainability which is something that doesn’t really happen nowadays with our ‘leaders’... the busses that were transporting these environmentalists into the conference were these big black busses that were sporting the name ‘Petrobras’ on the side which is the number one oil company in Brazil... really the outcome of this conference was to say that in 500 years we’re going to start our first environmental action, and then in 1,000 years, we’re going to start phase two of our plan,” said Blaney. “The entire conference just had a ‘woulda-shoulda-coulda’ vibe to it.”

Near the end of her speech Blaney expressed that she felt it was the responsibility of her generation to take steps to ensure the health of the environment. She also sang one of her two songs about the environment entitled “Earth Revolution.” The small audience stayed behind to ask questions of the young activist. Many expressed their joy in how much they learned from her, and expressed that they found her to be “inspiring.”

Russian parliament approves plan to invade Ukraine

» President Putin’s forces take Crimea, says invasion justified as threat to Russian interests are evident



Patrick Vaillancourt
News Editor
✉ news
@theotherpress.ca

More hours after the Russian parliament approved a request from the Kremlin to send troops into neighbouring Ukraine, Russian forces have taken the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has indicated that sending Russian troops into their politically unstable neighbour is justified to protect Russian interests and

Russian citizens living in Ukraine.

Russian troops have advanced inside Ukraine, seizing control of Crimea with the assistance of pro-Russian groups in the region. Russia asserts that its actions are required to protect Russian-speaking populations living within Ukraine.

Interim Ukrainian President Oleksander Turchinov ordered his troops at “full readiness.” Turchinov was installed as president last week as former president Viktor Yanukovich fled the Ukrainian capital after months of demonstrations against his

government.

International condemnation of Russia’s unilateral military action in Ukraine was swift.

US President Barack Obama promised “consequences” if Russia were to invade Ukrainian territory. Upon hearing of the military action by Russia, Obama spoke with France and Canada’s leaders to discuss helping Ukraine, and he also had a phone conversation with Putin.

The *Toronto Star* has reported that Putin told Obama “Russian troops may send its troops not

only to Crimea but all of predominantly Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine due to ‘the existence of real threats’ to Russian citizens in Ukrainian territory.”

In Canada, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has recalled his ambassador from Moscow and met in an emergency cabinet meeting. Initial indications are that Harper will boycott the G8 meetings which are scheduled for June 4-5 in Sochi, Russia. Obama also indicated he may skip the G8 meeting in response to Russian aggression in Ukraine.

The United Nations Security Council has had

emergency session meetings to discuss the crisis, one of which was televised. Several groups, including Ukraine’s UN ambassador, are calling on the council to stop Russian “aggression.”

This is not the first time in recent years that Russia has taken unilateral military action against one of its neighbours. In 2008, Russian troops entered Georgia to support a pro-Russian separatist group demonstrating against the Georgian government. The Georgians at the time were moving to adopt a more pro-European Union foreign policy.

Civil servants attack Gangnam street vendors

» Street vendors in South Korea's richest neighbourhood targeted by government-hired thugs



Patrick Vaillancourt
News Editor
✉ news
@theotherpress.ca

The stories from the recently concluded Winter Olympic Games in Sochi have subsided, making room for new and disturbing stories coming from the host country of the Winter Games four years from now.

Residents of South Korea's capital, Seoul, were shocked to see public servants they describe as government-hired thugs destroy several street carts in the city's Gangnam neighbourhood.

The area, which is the richest neighbourhood on the Korean peninsula, was made famous by South Korean pop sensation Psy with his 2012 hit single "Gangnam Style."

Street merchants are popular in South Korea, selling everything from comfort food to household supplies.

The Gangnam District Office, which is the body responsible for the governing of the neighbourhood, passed an ordinance in 2011 banning all street carts from the area, saying that it was becoming too congested for pedestrians. Despite the ban, vendors have continued to operate normally and the government had not done anything to remove them. The street vendors, when asked by the public servants why they had not moved before the crackdown became necessary, could be heard saying that they "do this for their livelihoods."

On February 27, civil servants took to Gangnam with sticks and batons, vandalizing and flipping over the street carts and tents. According to Joseph Kim of AsianCorrespondent.com, local police are calling it a "special crackdown of illegal stalls" that "threatened public security."

In all, the district office hired 50 people to orchestrate and execute the crackdown, which took place despite

The area, which is the richest neighbourhood on the Korean peninsula, was made world famous by South Korean pop sensation Psy with his 2012 hit single "Gangnam Style."

the protests from vendors and merchants. Police units were on hand throughout the crackdown but did not intervene.

The Gangnam area is already the richest area of the country, and is home to many of Korea's economic powerhouses like Hyundai and Samsung headquarters. It is also a very popular spot for foreign tourists, as Gangnam's nightlife is touted as one of the best experiences in Northeast Asia.

Korean officials are keenly aware that the eyes of the world will soon descend on their country, as 2018 Winter Olympic Games are headed to Pyeongchang, a county 180 kilometres east of the capital.

Efforts to rid areas such as Gangnam of traditional street vendors may come as the country tries to reinvent itself as a modern society with a heightened quality of life.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye has an ambitious plan to raise her country's standards, proposing a number of costly welfare programs and tax reforms which will require Koreans to pay higher taxes. Street vendors typically do not pay for the land they operate on, nor do they pay into sales taxes, but they are required to pay for business licences.



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THE OTHER PRESS IS HIRING!

NEWS EDITOR

The Other Press is hiring a News Editor to start immediately.

The News Editor is responsible for coordinating the News section on a weekly basis. The successful applicant will be responsible for five to six quality, edited news articles each week—whether by fielding and editing contributions or by writing articles him or herself.

Must haves:

- Substantive experience with copy editing (including a strong command of CP style)
- Experience and familiarity with conducting interviews and news-style article writing
- Interest in student and community news and events
- Strong writing skills
- A background in journalism

Pay: \$425/month Interested Apply by March 11, 2014 to editor@theotherpress.ca

SPORTS REPORTER

Do you love interviewing people? Have an interest in sports writing and photography? The Other Press is hiring a Sports Reporter for the upcoming summer semester and onwards.

The Sports Reporter is responsible for reporting on college news for the Sports section on a weekly basis. The successful applicant will be responsible for two to three quality sports articles each week—finding news, conducting interviews, and taking photos.

Must haves:

- Experience and familiarity with conducting interviews and news-style article writing
- Interest in student and community news and events
- Strong writing skills
- Digital photography skills (equipment is provided)
- A current or previous connection to the Douglas athletics department is preferred

Pay: \$260/month Interested? Apply by March 24, 2014 to editor@theotherpress.ca

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Have you ever looked at the paper and thought to yourself "Cool layout!" or "Sick kerning!" Are you familiar with InDesign? Do you want to know more? The Other Press is hiring a Production Assistant for the upcoming summer semester and onwards.

The Production Assistant is responsible for assisting the production team each publishing week and will learn valuable technical skills related to print design. The successful candidate will also have the chance to contribute to the look and feel of the paper.

Must haves:

- Familiarity with Mac OS environment
- Working knowledge of Adobe CS 5/6 (specifically Adobe InDesign)
- A background in design is an asset, but not mandatory
- A willingness to learn!

Pay: \$240/month Interested? Apply by March 31, 2014 to editor@theotherpress.ca

This issue:

- ☑ 'Non-Stop' delivers thrills from takeoff to landing
 - ☑ Comic Corner: More than a typical ghost story
 - ☑ Girls bite back: 'Bitten' review
- And more!

Seen something worth sharing?

Contact: Cheryl Minns, Arts Editor

✉ arts@theotherpress.ca

www.theotherpress.ca

When media tackles bullies

Angela Espinoza
Contributor

"I worry about the way information circulates..."

- Olive Penderghast

Young students and adults alike have adopted the pink shirt tradition for Anti-Bully Day, which celebrated its seventh year on February 26, but there is little evidence that the event's message carries on throughout the rest of the year. There are limited examples in film and television that display what bullying is actually like for young people, but with cases of severe bullying being what they are, it's understandable that more viewable media wouldn't want to touch the subject—at least, not seriously.

Generic Disney Channel shows and the likes of *Glee* grossly exaggerate what "bullying" actually looks like. Disney shows in particular glorify characters who are perhaps meant to be anti-heroes but are in turn accurate examples of how a bully would act.

Of the few examples of media that fairly represent bullying, the 2010 film *Easy A* comes to mind. The film tells the story of 17-year-old Olive Penderghast (Emma Stone), who lies about losing her virginity and, within a few short

weeks, finds her high school student body is far too intrigued and socially aggressive towards her as a result. While there certainly is a level of wackiness on the film's part, Stone's narration throughout the film provides extensive commentary on what feelings can arise from bullying and what lengths more difficult students (and people in general) will go to if they are cruel or simply insensitive enough.

The 2011 documentary *Bully* has also played a large part in bringing awareness to what high school students endure with more severe cases of bullying. The doc focuses on the suicides of Tyler Long (1992-2009) and Ty Smalley (1998-2010), who were both quite young, and what specific aspects of their bullying led them to end their lives.

It's important to note that outbursts from one child to another are far from what Anti-Bully Day is fighting against. Rather, it's the cases of repeated and consistent bullying—which largely result from not dealing with the issue at hand—that Anti-Bully Day's message is trying to prevent.

While *Easy A* and *Bully* may otherwise have very little in common, their accurate representations of bullying have certainly been a wake-up call for many in the past few years. But where *Easy A* is appropriate for

teens, who sorely need to hear the film's message, *Bully* has the issue of being a restricted film in the US (although it was released as PG in Canada), as it does extensively discuss the suicides of two young people.

There also lies a problem in how exactly media should address bullying. *Easy A* manages to balance out its otherwise serious plot with a sassy and delightful protagonist. Realistically, teens would probably be more inclined to see a fun film like *Easy A* over an immensely dramatic documentary like *Bully* any day of the week. Thus, rather than address the topic seriously, we then get plenty of film and television cases where bullying is poorly represented to an audience that sorely needs a clearer idea of what "bullying" can actually look like.

In turn, there needs to be a thorough message that the way to combat bullying is not to *bully back*, or to not say anything—it seems like common sense, but what few examples such as *Glee* and even *Easy A* provide is that students will actually not receive help from their teachers or principals. Perhaps that message more than anything is what makes a day like Anti-Bully Day so necessary: not the idea that bullying is at an extreme high, but the idea that receiving help is at an extreme low.



Easy A (TOP), Glee (BOTTOM) // By www.screensyndrome.com

Delicious desserts in 'Recipe to Riches'

» Season three premieres on CBC

Jerrison Oracion
Contributor

Recipe to Riches is back and it's bigger than ever before. The show's third season aired its first episode on February 26 on its new network, CBC. The show began its next search for a recipe that is worth \$250,000 and will be sold as a President's Choice product in Loblaw supermarkets.

This season is hosted by Carlo Rota from CBC's *Little Mosque on the Prairie* and

the judges this time are food writer Gail Simmons, Vikram Vij from Vij's Restaurant in Vancouver, and Arlene Dickinson from *Dragon's Den*.

In the season premiere, the show focussed on everyone's favourite food item: desserts. In the episode, viewers are introduced to Erica Pauze with her maple-bacon butter tarts, Port Coquitlam's Jesse Meredith with his milk chocolate raspberry cheesecake bites, as well as Brad Reinsch with his coco nut nut bars. Pauze, Meredith, and Reinsch are

all trying to win for the competition with their recipe.

In the end, Meredith's milk chocolate raspberry cheesecake bites—with their great design that promises a creamy and rich taste—won the \$25,000 episode prize, and are now available at Superstore and President's Choice supermarkets. He will go on to compete for the \$250,000 grand prize.

Keep watching *Recipe to Riches* for more delicious new foods, soon to be found in a supermarket near you.



The cast of Recipe to Riches // www.templestreetproductions.com

Under the Feminist Microscope: 'How Nice to Have a Hobby' exhibition

» A look at the latest Leigh Square show



Julia Siedlanowska
Staff Writer

An all-female feminist exhibition that, according to the show's program, "challenges the preconceived notions of female achievement in the arts and addresses the question of gender bias in the art world" is open now at Leigh Square. Curated by Danaca Ackerson and Deanna Fogstrom, *How Nice to Have a Hobby* features more than 15 female artists in this powerful and concise collection with an important message.

The variety of mediums, such as paintings, quilts, ceramics, photographs, and clothing, within the exhibit sets up a perfect field for discussions about art versus hobby. Mediums like quilting are often faced with scrutiny and skepticism about their validity,

which may have something to do with their origins. With the women of the modern world traditionally being restricted to housework and hobby crafts (as is visible in the many artifacts of needlework), it's no wonder that breaking into the art world may have posed some challenges.

Although "there have been incredible strides made," according to the program for *How Nice to Have a Hobby*, "there's a lot of work to be done yet." While there are always questions about the value and validity of art, looking at this question through a lens of gender equality offers another important perspective.

Ackerson and Fogstrom were inspired to create the exhibition at Leigh Square in part because of a visit to the Seattle Art Museum's 2012-13 exhibit *Elles: Women Artists* from the Centre Pompidou. The exhibit featured over 75 women artists and was all-female. Ackerson recalls that at the

time the Pompidou was being reconfigured so that "the issue of gender bias wasn't an issue anymore," and that the exhibit was "trying to rectify the gender bias" in the art world. Some major inspiration, worthy of applying to local women artists in British Columbia.

With the intention of *How Nice to Have a Hobby* being "to generate conversations about high-/low-art, art/craft, dilettante/artist, gender bias, and the notion of hobby vs. profession," nothing does it better than Sima Elizabeth Shefrin's fabric piece titled "Isabel's Sort-of-Art-Show." The quilt features an almost comic strip-like depiction of a series of snapshots in this character's life. The original sketch that inspired the piece actually was a short comic that depicted the artists own fears. "Isabel" (which is a slightly abstracted version of the artist's own name) is seen creating her art and apologizing for it. In the end, she is small and

defeated. This was my favourite piece in the show as it spoke on the subject in a clear and precise matter. The artist used humour in the piece to portray the problems many artists, not only females, face in their art. In an artist's statement about the piece, Shefrin thanks all the strident feminist voices in the world and also states that "sometimes social change comes with a smile." This was the quintessential embodiment of the themes in this exhibit, and it is worth seeing if just for this piece.

Other notable pieces were those by artist Karyn Wong. With her highly colourful paintings depicting women in an almost comic book graphic style, she is a great contrast to Shefrin. While Shefrin depicts women in a raw and lifelike way (lifelike meaning that the women in her work are taken from reality), Wong depicts women in a slightly idealized way. Her comic book women are depicted in situations with

titles that suggest a political and social standpoint. Something is hidden there that is much more than a pretty face.

While there are many gender inequalities within professions, the art world is not exempt. According to the curators, there is a lot of work to be done within the realm of women's equality. When accepting submissions, Ackerson said, "Our mandate was to be inclusive. We wanted to provide women with the opportunity to exhibit because it's hard for women to have exhibits—as evidenced by the major galleries like the MOMA, the Guggenheim, big civic museums that have a very small percentage of work by women artists in their collection—like two to four per cent."

I personally enjoyed the theme and would not mind seeing more exhibits like this. An exhibit that's 100 per cent woman was quite all right with me.

Steven's Man-Cave: Staying alive in stealth games

» Be a lover, not a fighter

By Steven Cayer,
Senior Columnist

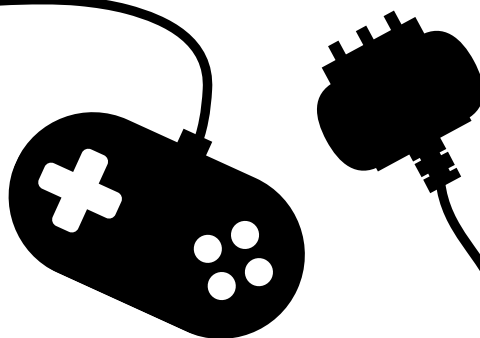
This week in the Man-Cave, I will be discussing a couple of my favourite stealth games and why I love them so much.

First on my list is *The Last of Us*. This game just might be my favourite game of all time. It's a beautiful combination of survival, horror, and stealth. Being a lover of stealth, I always try not to be seen by sneaking up behind the bandits and taking them out one by one. It's definitely challenging but it's worth the trouble if you pull it off.

Another stealth game I enjoy is *Dishonored*. Unlike the realistic universe of *The Last of Us*, the world of *Dishonored* is shrouded by the supernatural, from your special abilities to the runes you find along the way. After every level, the game tells you if you've killed anyone or been seen by anyone. I always found the safest way through the levels without killing anybody because I'm a lover, not a fighter.

Last but not least is *Splinter Cell: Blacklist*. This is the most science-fictional of the three games. I liked it because it lets you choose between three different play styles: ghost, panther, and assault. Ghost is where you must not be seen and you need to use non-lethal gadgets to take care of enemies. Panther is the same, except you must use lethal gadgets. Assault needs no explanation.

There you have it, three of my favourite stealth games. Something just feels so good about ghosting through a game that I can't wait to play the newest stealth adventure *Thief*, which was released for PS3, PS4, PC, Xbox One, and Xbox 360 on February 25.



Destroying history one disaster movie at a time

» 'Pompeii' review



Steven Cayer
Senior Columnist



The city of Pompeii is mostly known for being utterly destroyed by Mount Vesuvius way back in 79 AD. Nowadays, it's known for being destroyed by director Paul W.S. Anderson in his new movie *Pompeii*.

Knowing what Anderson's previous track record was, I held hope that this movie would be good—though I also had pretty low expectations. I was averagely pleased with the outcome.

A young boy named Milo is the only survivor of a vicious attack on his tribe of Celtic horsemen. Later caught off-guard, he is then caught and traded as a slave. Seventeen years later, he grows up to be a gladiator just trying to survive (played by Kit Harington). As

he gets transferred to Pompeii, he meets Cassia (Emily Browning), who's on her way to Pompeii when her carriage gets stuck and her horse falls down. She allows Milo to help her put the horse out of its misery. You just *know* that sparks something in them both.

In Pompeii, an evil Roman senator (poorly played by Kiefer Sutherland) is causing all matters of grief to Cassia and her parents (Jared Harris and Carrie-Ann Moss). Then comes the volcano.

One thing I will say about this movie is that the special effects were pretty cool, especially in 3-D. The entire final third of the movie is just a series of special effects. The actors did the best they could with the script, except for Sutherland. I'm not even sure what kind of accent he was going for.

Overall, if you lower your expectations a fair bit, you may mildly enjoy *Pompeii* as I did.

'Non-Stop' delivers thrills from takeoff to landing

» Liam Neeson saves the world again



Aidan Mouellic
Staff Writer



Liam Neeson is back to stop another life-threatening disaster in *Non-Stop*, which landed in theatres on February 28.

US Federal Air Marshal Bill Marks (played by Neeson) is on duty aboard a cross-Atlantic flight when he finds himself in the middle of a crisis situation. It's apparent even before the plane takes off that Marks is not having a good day—the whiskey in his coffee before work is a good indication of that. During the flight, things go from bad to worse when terrorists onboard convey via text message to the alcoholic air marshal that they will kill someone every

20 minutes unless they receive a very large sum of money. Viewers expect nothing less from Neeson except to save the day and he gets to work quickly, trying to solve the mystery surrounding the flight loaded with 150 potential suspects.

Non-Stop manages to use the cramped quarters of the airplane to its advantage, creating a tense, fast-paced thriller. The film's title couldn't be more appropriate as the movie delivers excitement from the beginning until the very end.

Neeson somewhat reprises his role in the *Taken* films, and manages to dominate the screen with his powerful presence. The lovely Julianne Moore delivers a brilliant performance as frequent-flyer Jen Summers, who adores the window seat. *Downton Abbey* fans will also be happy to see the talented English actor Michelle Dockery as the

ever-present flight attendant Nancy, who helps the air marshal in his mighty difficult duties.

What sets this film apart from other single-setting films is the pace and dynamism of the action onscreen. The timing of events in *Non-Stop* is dialled in perfectly: from each twist to every gunshot, everything has been surgically placed to create a thrilling ride for the viewers. Director Jaume Collet-Serra is not especially known for quality, but with time he is slowly mastering his craft. This is his second film with Neeson as the lead, which is quite the casting achievement considering Collet-Serra only began making films in 2005. His next film he will also feature Neeson as the lead, which means this power duo might be onto something.

Unless you have a fear of flying, this is one film you'll surely want to catch.



Still of Liam Neeson in *Non-Stop* // By Myles Aronowitz



Girls bite back!

» 'Bitten' review

Brittney MacDonald
Senior Columnist



Part *Teen Wolf* and part *Melrose Place*, *Bitten* is an addictive soap opera with a supernatural twist, featuring plenty of blood, guts, and nudity to keep any classic horror fan entertained. But the series' quick pace works to its detriment as the audience is left wondering, "What just happened?"

Why do guys get all the fans? This is a question Kelley

Armstrong must have asked when she came up with the *Women of the Otherworld* series, which features at its core a plethora of butt-kicking supernatural ladies. Naturally I was intrigued by its first novel, *Bitten*, and delighted when the book was picked up to be filmed for the small screen.

What's better than a good urban fantasy series? When they cast Canadians to play the lead roles!

Actress Laura Vandervoort, best known for her role as Kara in *Smallville*, plays Elena Michaels, an uptown girl in Toronto who just wants to hide away from the fact she happens to be the only female werewolf

in existence. After some time away, pack leader Jeremy (Greg Bryk) calls Elena back home in order to find a rogue werewolf that has been killing young women. The investigation forces her to pair up with her ex-lover Clayton, played by fellow Canadian actor Greyston Holt.

Throw in the fact her "pack" consists of a number of attractive immortal men and you have the makings of a great big ball of cheesecake, to be consumed weekly with wine.

Dead bodies, werewolves, sexual tension—what else could any viewer ask for? Maybe just a smidgen more plot development.

Comic Corner: More than a typical ghost story

» 'Locke and Key: Welcome to Lovecraft' review

By **Brittney MacDonald**, Senior Columnist



Author Joe Hill lends his incredible talent for suspense and horror to *Locke and Key*, his first foray into graphic novels. Paired with veteran fear monger Gabriel Rodriguez, the classic aesthetic appeal of *Locke and Key* is only outmatched by its engaging and spine-chilling plot. However, the signature art style of Rodriguez at times distracts from the intricate storytelling in a way that cannot be ignored.

Welcome to Lovecraft brings us into the world of Keyhouse, an old mansion with doors that lead to more than just the next hallway. Through a series of keys constructed from the remains of demons, humans are able to walk through portals into new and exciting dimensions. But not all these places are as they seem, and not all of the people who come back from them truly come back.

Nobody knows this better than the Locke family, who move into town after the tragic loss of their patriarch and come to realize that maybe the loss of their father and the restless spirits of Keyhouse might be related. Murder, possession, and mystery drive this page-turner in ways that will keep you up at night.

Rodriguez, who is known for his work in the *CSI* series, is familiar with a little gore and that shows in *Locke and Key*. The colour and line quality of the art cannot be denied, but Rodriguez's characteristic bulky anatomy and squared facial features appear almost cartoony in certain scenes when juxtaposed against the fluidity of the plot.

All in all, I enjoyed the novel and would certainly recommend it to anyone who loves a good ghost story.

The Cast of *Bitten* // SyFy

This issue:

- ☑ No shampoo week 2: stuck in grease limbo
 - ☑ Google Glass is the future
 - ☑ A cure for the common hangover
- And more!

Have an idea for a story? Let us know!

Contact: Sophie Isbister, Life & Style Editor

✉ lifeandstyle@theotherpress.ca

www.theotherpress.ca

Goods and services animals

» How the future will have animals for everything



Cazzy Lewchuk
Staff Writer

Animals are used by our society in many ways. Some relationships exist to serve the animals, such as animal shelters and veterinary hospitals. Some exploit the animals for human-use, as in the case of slaughterhouses and fur farms. And other services are mutually beneficial to both animals and humans, in ways that could be considered a little wacky—or perhaps overly luxurious—to many.

A spa service that has become popular in many parts of Asia has found its way over to North America. The Garra

rufa fish, known informally as the “doctor fish,” hails from Turkey and feeds on waste such as larvae and algae. They’re also used by the batch in many clinics to give pedicures, as they are effective eaters of dead skin. The customer simply soaks their feet in a tank and the fish go to town, leaving much smoother and softer tootsies behind. Presumably, this method is not recommended for the squeamish or ticklish. It’s also not recommended by many health authorities, as the practice has been banned in many states and provinces—including at one clinic on Vancouver Island in 2011. Regulators believe that it’s an unsanitary procedure, as the fish cannot be thrown away or sterilized after use.

Animals can also help in less slimy ways. Many schools, including our very own Douglas College, have offered a “puppy room”—which is exactly what it sounds like. During the stress of finals, students can come and play with a bunch of puppies. The puppies play and get some human affection, while the students play and get some puppy affection. A similar concept is the cat café or “Catfé,” originally hailing from Japan. Customers can come in and watch or play with the cats while enjoying refreshments, providing an opportunity for relaxation and affection to both humans and animals alike. Cat cafés are gaining in popularity worldwide, with one scheduled to open in Vancouver in fall 2014. Both the puppy rooms

and cat cafés should be exciting to almost anyone—except those with allergies or a deep hatred of kittens and puppies.

First it was fish for rent to clean your feet, then puppies and kittens to rent for affection. Who knows what may emerge next? In Japan, there is a restaurant where the waiters are trained monkeys. Capuchin monkeys are already used to provide services to persons with disabilities in the West—maybe soon they’ll be available to rent as servers or cleaners. Who wouldn’t want to be brought a beer from a little monkey in a bow tie?

Why not take it further? Canada Post is phasing out home delivery in the next five years. Maybe we could go back to the days of the carrier

pigeon to send and receive bills, letters, and postcards. Larger birds such as owls and ravens can deliver heavier pieces of mail. In no time at all, the world will look like a Harry Potter book. We could even get birds to replace tools at the dentist’s office; they’d just eat all the plaque off your teeth.

We could use animals for everything in the future! I’m thinking moose and reindeer to pull our cars when we run out of gas. I’ve got visions of gorillas as hired security for concerts and parties—they intimidate much more than any person could. Humans may be the smartest animals on Earth, but it doesn’t mean we’re the most useful.

Fish Pedicure // By www.romanticsaloon.com



» Four ways to repurpose leftover taco fixings



Sharon Miki
Humour Editor
✉ humour@theotherpress.ca

It’s taco night. You’ve slaved over the preparations: chopping vegetables, frying meat, arranging stand-and-stuff taco shells. If you’re anything like me, you enjoy the meal, and then leave the bits and pieces chilling on the counter—just in case you might want more. After a few hours, you’re totally sick of tacos, and you throw the broken shells and remnants of your fiesta in the trash. What a waste... why not repurpose those bits into new meals and

save a bit of cash?

Taco Salad. The easy way to turn your leftovers into a fun new meal is to literally throw everything onto a big bed of lettuce. Bonus? It’s a healthier alternative to traditional tacos, while still getting those flavours in your mouth.

Fiesta Casserole. Have some leftover ground beef, cheese, tomatoes, and veggies? Cook half a package of your favourite pasta al dente, and mix it all together with a bit of tomato sauce. Pop it in the oven for about 20 minutes at 350 degrees until it’s all hot—then crumble some leftover or broken shells on top for crunch.

Taco Bell-Style Fried Rice. This is basically a fancy Asian fusion dish: cook a cup of rice, then add it to a frying pan with an egg. Throw in your leftover taco ingredients and fry until the flavours are blended to your liking. The mix of the taco seasoning with the rice is muy bien!

Soup à la Tacos. If you don’t have much time and are feeling the strain of your budget, use your leftover taco fixings to spice up a plain ol’ can of tomato soup. Mix it all together in a pot until warm—and, again, it never hurts to sprinkle some taco shells on top for garnish.

No shampoo week 2: stuck in grease limbo

» Coping with the transition phase



Sophie Isbister
Life & Style Editor
✉ lifeandstyle
@theotherpress.ca

I'm two weeks into my no-shampoo experiment and my life is starting to feel like a combination of the musicals *Grease* and *Hair*. For real though, it's oily—very oily. This is to be expected; my hair is naturally really oily anyway, so during this “transition phase” (as the gals in the Facebook low-poo/no-poo community page call it) it's no wonder my hair is overproducing like crazy.

So instead of focussing on my progress (because there is no progress when you live in grease limbo), this instalment will focus on ways to cope when every day feels like a bad hair day. Whether you're trying to stop using shampoo like me, or even just trying to go a few days between washes, these strategies should give you the knowledge you need to keep it going.

First, brushing! The Facebook community suggests brushing your hair frequently with a boar bristle brush (available at any drugstore). The natural fibres of the brush are supposed to be good for your hair, and frequent brushing distributes your scalp's natural oil throughout your hair's length, having a conditioning effect on dryer hair.

Dry shampoo is also an

option for those oily days between washes. I'm not using any store-bought products on my hair for this experiment. I'm going full-hippie, which means making my own dry shampoo out of cornstarch, cocoa, and essential oils—see sidebar for recipe! I only use it in emergency situations (read: not every day), but it makes the roots look a little less greasy, and also can give your hair a nice scent, depending on the essential oils you use.

Having a good style in your hair can also make it appear less greasy. In fact, there are a lot of styles that hold better in oily hair than in clean hair! As someone with very fine and straight hair, I've always had a really hard time making up-dos stay in place—not anymore, since my hair is now always infused with its own natural oils. Braids are also a great way to get your hair off your face and neatly tucked away.

My favourite style these days has been a top-knot. This is really easy to do: just brush your hair upward (this part is important!), then gather it all in a ponytail very close to the top of your head. Backcomb the pony a bit, then wind your hair around the base of the ponytail and secure in place with bobby pins. This look can also be dressed up with a headband or bandanna, further hiding your oily shame. A sock bun also works really well with greasy hair.

Braids continue to be a challenge for me. I think the real trick is exercising your arms so they don't hurt so much! I've had minor success just pulling all my hair back in a French braid. And for a casual day at school or work, I've been working on a single French braid that goes along my hairline, and then gets pulled into a low side bun.

When all else fails, try complaining! The Internet is great for this when your friends are tired of listening; whether you find support on Facebook, Reddit, or Twitter, support is there for any struggle that may come your way while you kick the shampoo-habit. Everyone says it should start getting easier for me, so I hope my next instalment is a lot more positive!

Simple dry shampoo recipe Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup cornstarch
- 1/4 cup cocoa (*optional*)
- A few drops of essential oil

Combine all the ingredients in a sturdy Ziploc bag. Use cocoa if you have brown or dark hair, but omit if you have blonde hair. Use any kind of essential oil—I like sweet orange. Once the ingredients are combined, store in a jar and apply to the roots of your hair with an old makeup brush.



By www.gracefullittlehoneybee.blogspot.ca

Google Glass is the future

» Will the Google technology be the first truly hands-free mobile platform?



Aidan Mouellic
Staff Writer

I was recently having a phone conversation with a friend who described something that they were drawing, and it made me think: “Wouldn't it be cool if I could see what they were seeing?” Then I thought about the devices that Google is working on. With their Google Glass wearable technology, my dream will be a reality soon.

Google Glass is not available to the general public yet, although Google has released batches to American testing crews. These lucky few, called Explorers, are able to purchase the devices for \$1,500 before

the masses get a chance. The Explorers have been praising the device, while the rest of the Glass-less world seems to be apprehensive about the technology. The main feature of Google Glass is something called a Heads-Up Display (HUD), which shows information on a tiny screen right in front of your eye. HUDs are typically found in fighter jets and other high-end aircraft, but now you can have one strapped to your face showing you your emails—if you're American and have \$1,500 to spare.

The Google Glass HUD can show the wearer map-based directions, photographs, videos, email, and other really cool geeky stuff that gets kids like me excited. But despite the potentially great capabilities of the

Google device, not everyone is excited for its release. The term “glasshole” is already part of the vernacular of those who fear that users of the technology will be assholes. Why would someone think that? Well, because Google Glass has a built-in camera that shoots from the user's perspective, many believe that this technology will be used to invade the privacy of others. The eyewear is also rather bulky and makes the user look a bit silly, but considering how new the technology is, bulkiness is to be expected—'90s era cellphones, anyone?

Even though Google Glass is ugly, potentially controversial, and not that cool (yet), I know that it's the future. When the technology makes it to the mass market it will change the way we

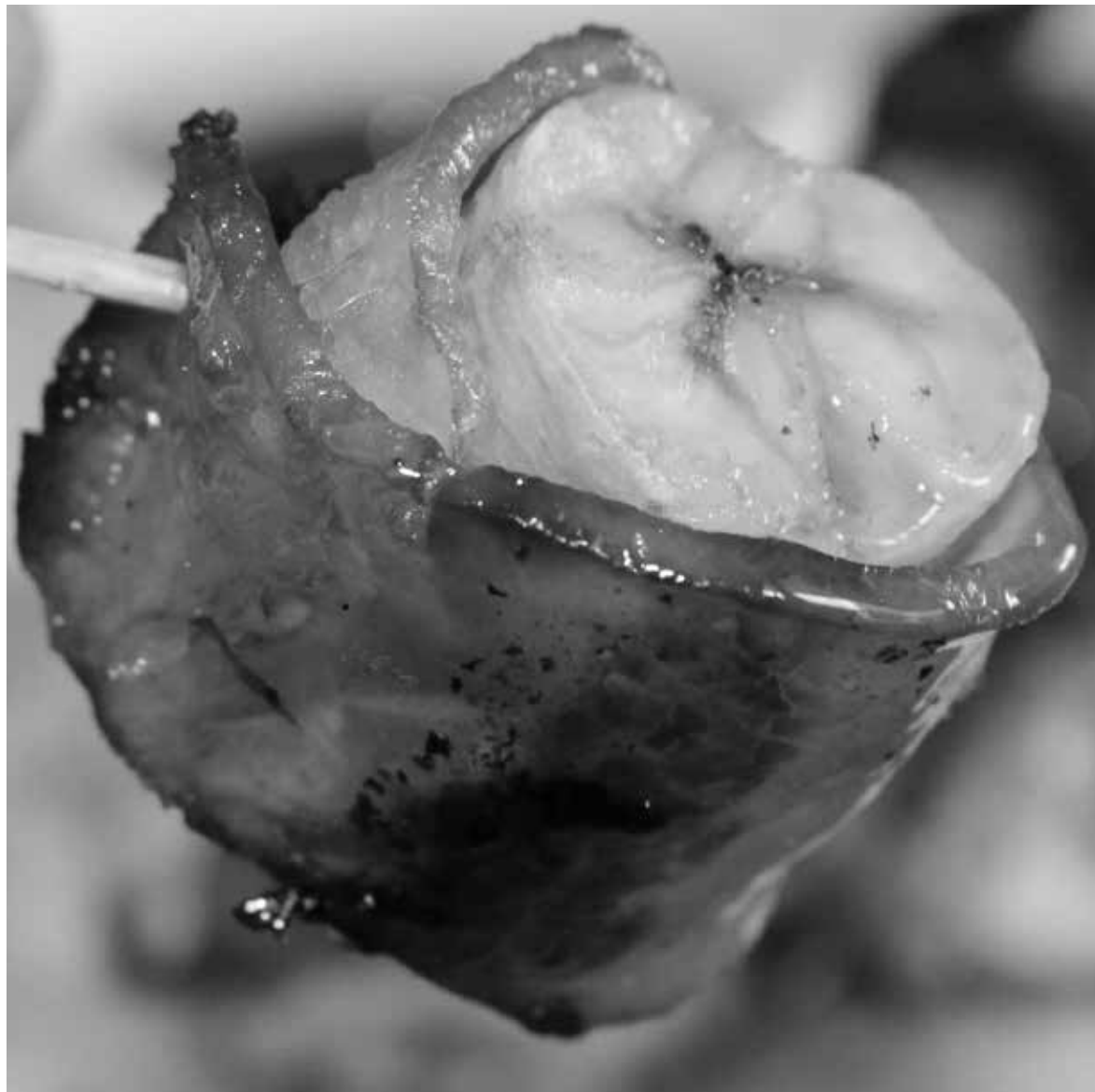
experience mobile communication. It will immerse us in our conversations. Using a handheld cellphone right now is sort of like listening to theatre on the radio—it's one-dimensional and lacks depth. As much as I love radio programs, film is much funner and more engaging. When we speak on our phones all we have is sound; our telephone conversations lack colour.

I realize that statement might make me sound ungrateful for cellphones, but I'm not. Speaking on a small cellphone to someone who is sometimes thousands of kilometres away is amazing; having their voice in the palm of my hand is amazing. But we can take it further with the technology that Google is introducing. Google Glass can immerse us in our

mobile interactions by seamlessly linking visual and audio components of conversations.

I want to be able to have my friends show me in realtime what they are drawing, and Google Glass will let me do that. Imagine talking with someone on the other side of the world and being able to see what they see—Google Glass will let us converse with others as if we are standing right next to them.

The possibilities for Glass are vast and I can't wait to try it out and see how refined it will get with time. Currently, cell phones are astonishingly good, yet they still lack the ability to create a hands-free, immersive experience for users. Google Glass might deliver the Holy Grail of communication excellence, and I can't wait to find out.



A bacon wrapped banana has your hangover recovery covered // By www.realfoodpledge.com

Greasy spoon breakfast

» A cure for the common hangover



Sophie Isbister
Life & Style Editor
✉ lifeandstyle@theotherpress.ca

If you're a student in college, chances are you've been around long enough to both have a hangover, and know that you hate hangovers!

There are tons of ways to prevent hangovers. Usually if you drink a lot of water while you party, your headache and gut-rot won't be so bad the next day. Avoid salty bar snacks like nachos and peanuts: while they are super tasty, they will dehydrate you further (and possibly make you consume more alcohol)—think about that next time you consider a 3 a.m. McDonald's run!

But ultimately, while there are ways to prevent a hangover, it's usually inevitable that you wake up on Sunday morning feeling like you've been scraped off the pavement and dumped into your bed. It's not a good feeling, but here's the good news: there is a cure!

No, it's not a tomato juice, or a raw egg smoothie, or even just more sleep. It's these three magic words: bacon, eggs, and bread. There

is truly some science behind everyone's favourite greasy spoon breakfast, so next time you wake up with your mouth feeling like cotton and your head throbbing, try to make yourself decent enough to head to your local Denny's for a bacon-anything.

But why is this the case? Let's start with bacon. Bacon contains the protein and amino acids that your body needs in order to do fun things like think. Eggs together with bacon make the best buddy-cop-team imaginable when it comes to booking your hangover for heinous crimes—eggs contain cysteine, which reduces those pesky toxins that make you feel like crap. Combine that with carb-loaded bread and potatoes, serve it up with a giant glass of hydrating water, and you have yourself a hangover-free afternoon that you can spend doing all that reading.

The bacon sandwich has been scientifically proven to cure tough hangovers, but is there a lighter option for those of us who don't relish the thought of adding more calories onto a night where we may have drank a week's worth of calories in gin drinks?

Eggs together with bacon make the best buddy cop team imaginable when it comes to booking your hangover for heinous crimes

The answer is yes! For the vegetarians among us, load your plate up with a fruit salad containing lots of bananas and kiwis, and serve it with a can of delicious coconut water (or even just regular water). The potassium in the coconut water and the fruit will make you feel better—the effects of alcohol will have stripped your body of a lot of nutrients, so replacement is the name of the game.

However you fix your hangover, know that there is a cure—and sometimes an even better cure can be getting together with your friends to rehash the previous night's shenanigans. So why not invite some bacon along?

10 questions the

Internet is asking right now



For the uninitiated, Yahoo Answers is the often-unintended comedy goldmine masquerading as a crowd-sourced advice website. The site offers a lot of decent, legitimate answers to reasonable questions; if you ask for advice on how long to cook a chicken or the best way to fold a fitted sheet, you can be sure that your Google results will contain a few Yahoo Answers hits. But the site also contains some epically absurd, banal, or downright hilarious questions. Here are some highlights.

1. I'm 14 and I have chest hair. Normal?
2. Is it better to have no friends or keep your "toxic" friends?
3. What's he saying? What does it mean?
4. Ladies: would you date Rowen Atkinson not "Mr. Bean"?
5. Will getting diagnosed with ADHD ruin my nerdcared?
6. If you were defeated in a battle to the death would you ask for mercy?
7. Is it worth it to go to nail school or does everyone do their own now?
8. What hair colour best suits a large nose?
9. Is Los Angeles safe in the day?
10. How do I clean semen off a toothbrush?



POLING OUT A

The art, sport, and fit

By Julia Siedlanov

Just look at Anastasia Sokolova, made famous when she appeared on *Ukraine's Got Talent* in 2012, and you'll know that pole dancing is an art. Sokolova's performance almost made me cry—and that was just through YouTube. The strength, flexibility, coordination, and training required to be a professional pole dancer are the same as with any other dance or sport. Jessica Lyn, founder, director, and head instructor at AVA Fitness in New Westminster, offers high-level training, both for those looking to have fun or those looking to be BC's Pole Fitness Champion.

Driving by 6th Street one day, a pole dance studio caught my eye. Intrigued, I called, made an appointment, and ended up in a small class with an enthusiastic and talented instructor. Lyn has been pole dancing since 2007, and now it's pretty much her life.

"Right now I'm teaching about 16 hours a week, and then I have my own training on top of that which varies," says Lyn. "It can go from about four hours a week to 20 hours of extra training when I'm booked for a performance where I have to come up with my routines and things like that."

When she's not in the studio, she's working on programs, new classes, her website, and anything else involved in running a business. Designing all her own marketing materials, Lyn says the job is more than full-time. "But no complaints," she adds.

Lyn got her start taking pole dancing classes while living in the UK. "I was one of those students that was, like, once a week, probably for a year and a half. I took breaks here and there as well so I wasn't fully, fully committed, but it was something that I loved," says Lyn.

While on vacation in Vancouver, she missed her training routine and decided to take a class. "I went to a local studio and I was really shocked at the level that they were teaching. For someone like me who had been doing it for a year and a half, almost two years at that point, I was wanting to go to a more advanced class and it really wasn't, so I was kind of disappointed with it." Lyn asked the instructor if she could play on the poles for an hour. "So I stayed and one by one all the instructors came into the studio and they [had their] jaws on the floor, eyes bulging out of their head, they were like 'Oh my god, you could totally teach us.' ... and that is what kind of made me think, 'Oh, I probably could.'"

When she went back to the UK, Lyn got certified and started teaching the next week. "In the UK it's very regulated... even to teach basic classes you have to have your certification. It was never like that [in Canada], but it is now."

Three months after getting certified, Lyn moved to Canada. "I ordered my poles, they arrived even before I did... I just knew when I came back that this is what I want to do—this is all I want to do. So I moved here in December 2009 and in February I started classes."

Renting spaces in local gyms, Lyn began teaching on her own. "I had two poles and I'd go into the gym, I'd set them up, I'd do the class, I'd take them down, I'd pack them away, I'd put them in my car, and I'd be on my way. And I did that for, I'd say the first eight months."

Lyn then settled for a while in a small personal training gym in Port Moody until her classes got too full. "We were having wait-lists for classes and we were saying no to people—and I hate saying no to people... it was at that point that I really knew it's time to open our own space."

"We opened up here in October 2012, so we've been here just over a year and we're already looking to expand. We're outgrowing this very quickly," says Lyn.

The curriculum is expanding along with the clientele. Lyn and her fellow instructors are developing a curriculum for aerial hoop, to start in spring. AVA Fitness also offers boot camps, aerial yoga, flexibility training, core conditioning, spinning pole classes, and

ALL THE STOPS

Business of pole dancing

Wenska, Staff Writer

dance classes. “Because we don’t do a lot of ‘sexy’ in class—we focus mainly on the skill and the form and the tricks... that’s really all we have time for... people that want to do the sexy stuff, we do separate [dance] classes for.”

Lyn and the studio also host fundraisers: they raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness month every October, and have also done a fundraiser for Heart and Stroke. The fundraisers are often done in studio, with the bigger events hosted at Status Nightclub. “Their team is really good so we end up packing the place,” says Lyn. “And we’ve gotten a lot of business off of it—men too. Men that go and say ‘We saw this guy on a pole and he was awesome.’ And we’re like ‘Men can totally do it too!’”

AVA Fitness dancers also perform at corporate events, most recently showcasing their work at the Taboo Naughty but Nice Sex Show. “It’s a sex show, but we really sold it as fitness,” says Lyn. “One of our big things this year is our 2014 fitness championships being held in September.”

Competitors from all over British Columbia gather in the host city to compete for BC Pole Fitness Champion. “They compete per division. We’ve got an amateur division, semi-pro, pro, men’s, master’s (which is over 40), and doubles so that’s double pole, two people on the pole... The winner from the competition we send to Nationals. This year they’re being held at Niagara Falls,” explains Lyn. “We give them a ticket to go and they represent our province against all the other ones and the winner of that goes to the Worlds. It’s really fun,” she says.

“It’s becoming a real mainstream sport and art now. I’m excited and I’m happy to be a part of it. I’m so excited I got in at the early stages. Although I’ve been doing it for a long time now it’s just starting to get really popular.”

While there was once a stigma attached to pole dancing, Lyn says this is changing. “There used to be more so than there is now. I’m sure you didn’t think it would just be like stripper class one on one,” Lyn laughs. “Some girls come in, or guys, and they don’t know what to expect. They think it’s going to be a class full of hot women in bikinis and heels and it really isn’t—it’s so the opposite of that. Especially when you get into the upper level where we’re lifting ourselves up and flipping, and we’re sweating and we’re swearing, and we’re getting injuries.”

It’s not incidental that pole dancing has gained rapid popularity over the years. “We still want to keep the sexy because it totally is, but there’s a time and place for it. In our performances when we do them outside of the studio generally are always more gymnastic-based and lyrical dance-based than sexy style.”

With its portrayal in film and television as an art that anyone can get into, the stigma is quickly washing away.

When I entered the studio, I was welcomed by Lyn and shown to a cozy dressing room in the back, where I met some fellow students. As we started the class, Lyn knew what level each of her students were at, and she catered to all. We started with a brief warm-up, then some pole moves, and then conditioning at the end. As I learned the moves, I felt encouragement from all. At the end of the class, my new fitness friends asked “Will you be back next week?”

For women and men of any skill-level or age, this is a fun way to get in touch with your sexy—or silly—side. For dancers, it’s just another medium of self-expression. For those looking to exercise, it’s a great workout that can get hardcore. I know from my own shins and the bruises that developed on them that pole dancing can be intense, but Lyn was always right there to correct me before I did any permanent damage. What I saw from Lyn’s studio was a small class size and an attentive instructor. Close by and a great way to have fun, meet new people, and gain strength and flexibility, I may just be back next week.



Jessica Lyn, founder of AVA Fitness in New Westminster
Photo by Lynda Allen Photography

This issue:

- ✓ Better social media means better content
 - ✓ Commercial Drive tagging: art or vandalism?
 - ✓ War of the Words: Sibling rivalry
- And more!

Have your voice heard!

Contact: Elliot Chan, Opinions Editor

✉ opinions@theotherpress.ca

www.theotherpress.ca

The death of the simple date

» How online dating has ruined a man's ability to engage women publicly



Patrick Vaillancourt
News Editor
✉ news
@theotherpress.ca

There was a time when there wasn't all that much to dating. The process was simple: approach someone, introduce yourself, and begin a social interaction. It's with a heavy heart that I report to you that those days are gone. Social media and online dating sites, such as eHarmony and Match.com, have effectively made the simple act of engaging someone a setup for failure.

In an age of political correctness, this is particularly difficult for men. A man approaching a woman can be regarded as—and is, in some cases—an unwanted approach or, in extreme cases, harassment. On the other hand, men consider being approached by a woman as something to be

proud of.

Men are simpler beasts, and so I have chosen to focus on “men seeking women.”

As social media becomes increasingly prominent in our lives, we become more awkward in live social situations. It seems that asking someone out for coffee or on a date has become easier to do via Facebook or Twitter than it is in a real-life encounter. In addition, meeting people online through well-established dating sites has become that much more complicated for men.

Consider this: a typical, single man is approached at a pub by an attractive woman who shows some interest—the man is most likely thinking about buying her a drink and engaging with her socially. On the flip-side, a man who approaches the same woman in the same pub is likely going to get turned away. Why? Well, because the woman

knows absolutely nothing about the approaching male. Some exceptions apply to the über rich and those who look influential or powerful, and such is the influence of online dating sites.

A simple eHarmony profile for someone looking for other singles contains a whopping 400 questions. The answers to these questions formulate an algorithm which enables the website to match one up with potential mates. When did looking for a life partner become an exercise akin to taking a final exam?

Other sites, such as Craigslist personals, don't provide a sufficient and free alternative to online dating, unless you like women who start off with all the things men don't want to hear. “I'm not perfect” or “I'm getting out of a bad relationship” are not the types of sales pitches people want to hear, yet are all over Craigslist.



By www.tomhaakhr.com

One could argue that both social media and the online dating world have each contributed to a collective skepticism around dating, cohabitation, and marriage. Our grandparents never had to contend with divorce rates as high as 50 per cent, yet the most wired generation ever does—and there are no indications

that the trend will stop at that.

Everyone agrees that technology has allowed us to advance as a society in immeasurable ways. That being said, there are some things that technological advances should not be a part of—one of those includes matters of the heart.

The masked vagina

» The film industry, female empowerment, and superheroes—or lack thereof



Natalie Serafini
Assistant Editor
✉ assistant
@theotherpress.ca

When I was a child and *Catwoman* came out, I was ecstatic. Eleven-year-old me watched the movie several times, thrilled by the fact that this woman was avenging herself, kicking ass, and taking names. It wasn't until I was a few years older that I realized it was a travesty of a movie. I can only excuse my brief hero-worshipping because *Catwoman* was a drop of water in an otherwise arid desert—and it still is.

The examples of female superhero movies are few and far between. There are movies with strong female leads who verge on being superheroes, like Uma Thurman's *Kill Bill* or Natalie Portman's *V for Vendetta*. There are superheroes of bygone years, like another Catwoman (played by Michelle Pfeiffer in '92). Ensemble films feature female

heroes, like the *X-Men* franchise with its various female mutants, or the *Fantastic Four* films with Sue Storm (Jessica Alba). Even more astonishingly, said character might be enigmatic and complex; Catwoman's more recent incarnation in the *The Dark Knight Rises*, with Anne Hathaway purring away as the feline fatale, comes to mind.

Yet, even with the indications that female-led films put asses in the seats (as evidenced by Jennifer Lawrence's performance in *The Hunger Games* films), and the cult-like adulation of powerful female characters (e.g. Sarah Michelle Gellar in *Buffy*), female superheroes are a rarity; and the list of them is pretty abysmal.

There are glimpses of successful, female superhero franchises: Wonder Woman was the focus of a TV show from 1975-79; was meant to be reincarnated in a TV show reboot which never came to fruition; is the titular subject of Kristy Guevara-Flanagan's

documentary, *Wonder Women!*, to be shown at the BFI on International Women's Day; and Gal Gadot is reported to be starring as Wonder Woman in *Batman vs. Superman*.

All the attention on Wonder Woman is great!... but where have all the other female superheroes gone? The calls for more of such productions are out there, as both *Esquire* and *Newsarama.com* list the top 10 female superheroes who should get their time on the big screen.

The easy excuse is that female superhero films don't do as well at the box office. You only have to compare *Catwoman* (with a worldwide gross of \$82,102,379) with 2004's *Spider-Man 2* (worldwide gross of \$783,766,341) to know that's true. The easy answer to that easy excuse, though, is that you get out what you put in. Produce a bad movie and you'll get bad turn-out. It's elementary.

Part of the issue with these films is that they lean so heavily on archetypal characters. The female superheroes represented

are often homogenized to the point where if you were to remove their powers, characteristic quirks, and costumes, you might not even be able to differentiate them. They're sassy but in a vaguely psychotic way, so their power is largely in their erratic unpredictability; they're simpering; their one-liners aren't particularly biting; and they might not need a man, but you get the impression that they lack the capacity to share their life with anyone. With the film industry generally handling female superheroes in this manner, it's no wonder the movies get left in the dust.

The superhero is the perfect specimen. Superheroes are paragons of virtue, strength, and intelligence, yet women generally aren't afforded such a representation on the silver screen. That's why you end up with 11-year-olds thinking *Catwoman* is a good movie or, God forbid, an ideal role model.

I like the idea of future generations of girls not having to hunt down examples of

Superheroes are paragons of virtue, strength, and intelligence, yet women generally aren't afforded such a representation on the silver screen.

female empowerment. I'll grant you that female superhero films, comic books, video games, and the likes aren't the only avenues for empowerment—but right now they aren't avenues at all, they're more like dead ends. This isn't because women aren't capable of carrying the titular role; this isn't because there aren't enough filmmakers or financial backers who could bring a female superhero to cinematic life; this isn't because people don't go crazy for superhero films. It's because the film industry doesn't know what to do with female superheroes.

Better social media means better content

» How we can improve the Internet



Cazzy Lewchuk
Staff Writer

One of the great things about social networks is that they're Internet hubs which are fully customizable for the user: you get a personalized feed of entertainment. You can see pictures of your cousin's new baby, learn a friend's thoughts on a new movie, or find out just who's dating who. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, and all the other social networks around excite the mind.

With that said, it's important to post things that are actually entertaining. Facebook statuses are not personal diaries to rant about what a bad day you're having. Seeing a friend's angry updates about their awful experience with a phone company is annoying, depressing, and pointless. We all have difficulties with corporations, school, people, and the establishment. What does one accomplish by complaining about it online?

The same goes for sharing upsetting news articles. Yes, bad court rulings happen a lot. Yes, people get discriminated against. Bad social justice is everywhere, and it's terrible; still, sharing a link on Facebook about something upsetting that happened in Texas doesn't apply to anyone here, and there's nothing we can do about it. Even if the injustice is local, sharing on Facebook usually leads to nothing more than one to several people complaining. If you're seriously upset about something happening in the community, get involved. Do something that doesn't involve being in front of a screen. Complaining does zilch.

Then of course there's the universally hated process of subtly complaining, often known as "vaguebooking." This is when someone posts something passive-aggressive and vague, usually very short, but obviously angry. It'll say something like "UGH!" or "Some people..." Attempts to find out what's wrong in comments (please don't try this) either result in the user's refusal to talk about it, or suggesting that the matter is



private and that you should message them. Let me be clear: don't vaguebook, and don't encourage it, ever. It creates a nasty online environment for us all.

Then there are the boring posts. Not everything needs to be posted. Keep your song lyrics, descriptions of your exact location, and general ramblings about how your

day is going to yourself. We go on our social networks to see interesting and meaningful content. There's such a thing as posting too much, and if you don't have anything to say, don't. Start commenting or looking at other people's posts more. Hopefully you can find something you like—there's no shortage of posts out there.

Posting solid, meaningful,

uplifting content on social networks helps everyone. It'll make your posts more interesting, and friends and followers will actually view them. People who read them will be more entertained by them. You'll probably even feel better yourself! Social media should not be a bathroom wall—it should be a stage at a talent show.

Commercial Drive tagging: art or vandalism?

» 'No Pipelines' tag causes distress and hassle



Julia Siedlanowska
Staff Writer

Recently there has been some anger and criticism regarding an unknown individual tagging "No Pipelines" over a large blue mural on Commercial Drive. The scene is no doubt unsightly, but it also raises questions in the conversation on the validity of tagging as a method of self-expression.

Although graffiti has often been used as a form of political protest and a medium for challenging the establishment, there has always been a standard of artistic quality and integrity within the form. The discussion of whether or not the form is art or vandalism is one that has been going on since graffiti entered into the public eye.

"A while ago 'Anoy' was the tagline that we removed thousands of," says Jane McFadden, executive director of the Commercial Drive Business

Society. "And now we've removed hundreds of the 'No Pipeline.'"

McFadden says she has about 10 reports of graffiti every week. There are about a dozen murals on Commercial Drive funded mainly by the Commercial Drive Business Society and the City of Vancouver.

"The city will pay for the paint and we'll pay for the artist. So about \$5,000-10,000 is what we end up paying for them just depending on what the artist charges," says McFadden.

These murals are expensive, so you know that when someone vandalizes one, more money is going into restoration. The vandal is either senseless or purposely tagging over someone else's commissioned work (as opposed to a blank wall).

There is also a common suspicion that provocateurs from oil companies are the culprits. It's baffling to think of the extent corporations will go to to sway the public opinion. At least this way people could wrap

their heads around the stupidity of such a move.

"I think it's dumb as fuck!" says Drive resident Kayleigh Hatch. "It's so disrespectful. That's artwork that somebody's put a lot of energy into."

Since its origins, tagging has been used to mark a gang's territory, although in Vancouver it seems more like a hobby. This tag, however, isn't just someone's pseudonym scribbled onto a bus stop. It's an expression of a serious opposition to the various pipeline expansion projects that have been proposed to the government. This statement sprayed on top of a commissioned work not only opposes the pipeline projects, it also opposes the establishment of the many businesses commissioning the work, and the idea of judging art by its monetary value or public recognition.

In a culture where youth are almost never in your face about issues, I think a little rebellion is healthy. On one side, the tagging is unsightly. It's crude and there

is absolutely no artistic merit. It's also a complete waste of taxpayer's money when it's painted over several times. But there is something tactful in its placement. Although everyone who looks at the writing will most likely judge the tagger as an idiot, the work of the individual is not going unnoticed.

The Drive could very well set up a wall dedicated to graffiti, as McFadden is suggesting. However, this tagger is making a point by placing the writing where it's not supposed to be. The idea of having a special wall for graffiti makes me think of the International Olympic Committee's ideas for setting up specific "protest areas" for protesters of the Sochi Olympics. Naturally, protesters might see this as another form of control, of oppression. But in a community that is characterized by unity, arts, and a lower environmental impact, I'm not sure this particular protester is in the right place. The fact is (a) This tag is not art, and (b) Commercial Drive is

not traditionally a place where people who support the pipeline project hang out.

"If you're trying to get a message out about a positive cause, do it in a positive way and have integrity about *all* things, not just one cause," says Hatch.

If the concern of the tagger is environmental, as the issues concerning the Enbridge Pipeline proposal generally are, they might consider environmentally friendly mediums such as charcoal, dirt, or saps to paint their message. They may even consider planting their message in moss on the wall. But the point of such vandalism is to oppose and to make their opposition permanent.

At the end of the day, the tagger has reached their goal. They've got us thinking about the topic they wanted. Someone is showing us a reflection of the ugliness they see in the world. For those of us who see it too and are looking for other ways to deal with it, we'd rather not see a pretty mural desecrated.

War of the Words: Sibling rivalry

» Only (child) the lonely



Elliot Chan
Opinions Editor
✉ opinions
@theotherpress.ca

I was a late-bloomer, in the social sense. As a child, most of my time was dedicated to television, artworks, or other solitary enjoyments. My parents were too busy with work to entertain me, and my cousins lived too far away for weekday visits. Yes, being an only child was a lonely endeavour. If it wasn't for my imagination and my ability to outgrow my shyness, I would not have been able to survive my teenage years, let alone my adult years.

As I watch my parents age and my own responsibilities pile up, I wish I could turn to someone for support; a person who could relate to my family's erratic behaviour and me; someone to talk to without having to explain a lengthy life story; someone who understands mom and dad's expectations and their tendencies; someone to vent to without feeling the judgmental reverberations.

My parents rely on me for many things, and often times it seems unfair that all their hopes and dreams are now placed upon my shoulders. As an only child, I'm all the eggs in one basket—and they

know it as well as I do. I know that having siblings comes with minor annoyances: you'll have to wake up early to fight for the bathroom, you might not get seconds for dinner, and you might need to move out earlier because your parents can no longer support all of you financially. Those who are an only child face a psychological challenge. I call it "I never asked to be born" syndrome, where the child has to decide whether to do what their parents want them to do or to live their own life. That syndrome is evermore present in only children.

I'm well-aware that when mom and dad are gone, I might be the last branch

extending out in an obtuse direction from our family tree. That's a scary thought, one that only those without siblings can understand. All the affection, all the care, all the attention we received our whole lives will vanish. Memories of family dinners, vacations, and other snippets of normality growing up will be lost—should I allow it to be.

Now, I'm not saying that I want a brother or a sister. That is not a decision for a son to make, nor did I ever pressure my parents to conjure up a playmate for me. From my experience, it's a flip of the coin on whether you'll actually get along with your

siblings. Regardless, I think a bond between siblings is sacred; they endure the test of time. I find myself attempting to replicate that relationship with my friends and my cousins, but since most of my friends and cousins have siblings and families of their own, the sensation is far from authentic.

A family has a gravitational force that pulls all the beings together. An only child suffers the fate of orbiting alone, like the moon around Earth. Insignificant to the universe, but vital to the planet, we can only wonder what life would be like if there was another.



The Duggar Family: 19 kids and counting // By www.duggarfamily.com

War of the Words: Dismissing siblings

Anne Marie Abraham
Contributor

Children who come from big families are deprived of so much as they're growing up. They are often forced to share rooms with their dreaded siblings, and any toys they might own are communal. As if that wasn't enough, they are forced to suffer through the embarrassment of wearing hand-me-downs that were worn by sometimes two or three siblings before them. People from one-child families don't have to worry about

those troublesome issues and are often more privileged than multi-child families.

Space has always been an issue with big families. An only child, on the other hand, always has somewhere they can go when they need to get away. They have a room of their own, free of that white dividing line of tape in the middle. They also don't have to worry about sharing closet space and trying to fit everything they own in one small corner.

When it comes to getting up in the morning, they don't have to worry about being the last in line to use the

bathroom, and their showers can be longer than five minutes.

In a house with multiple children, there is always a struggle for time: time to finish your homework, time to hang out with friends, and time shared with parents. In a single-child home, the child can get as much time from their parents as they need without competing with siblings for attention. An only child is also able to join more activities since their parents can devote more time to driving them around. Another perk about being in single-child families is that

the child doesn't have to worry about taking turns using the computer or watching their favourite shows on TV.

Large families often struggle a little more with money. The children don't get as many presents at Christmas, and spending money has to be divided evenly amongst the children. An only child doesn't have these worries. More money can also be spent on music lessons, sporting events, and other extracurricular activities that interest the child.

Coming from a big family myself, I sometimes crave the experience of being an only

child. Would I be given the attention I need? Would I be free to join whatever activities I care to explore?

What I know for sure is that I wouldn't have to worry about being trapped at home babysitting my younger siblings when I could be out with my friends. I also wouldn't have to worry about wearing the same shirt both my older sisters wore before me—the same shirt that went out of style five years previously. If I was an only child, I'd have more opportunities to have and experience new things.



This issue:

- ☑ Men's basketball reflects on the season
 - ☑ Sport/Schmort: Beer Pong
 - ☑ Women's basketball surprises at Provincials
- And more!*

Know the score?

Contact: Eric Wilkins, Sports Editor

✉ sports@theotherpress.ca

www.theotherpress.ca

Heritage Classic fail

» Flaws in the NHL's outdoor concept



Eric Wilkins
Sports Editor
✉ sports@theotherpress.ca

By the time this article hits the stands, the NHL's Heritage Classic game between the Vancouver Canucks and the Ottawa Senators will be in the books. Undoubtedly, there will be some fans at the game who enjoy themselves immensely, and why not?—they're at a hockey game, after all. There is one fact everyone should recognize, though: the once historical and interesting series has become nothing more than a huge money grab for the league. Before continuing, I'd like to note that I consider the Heritage Classic and the Winter Classic one and the same, especially after the most recent "Heritage Classic" game. They're outdoor hockey games; don't try to pretend there's a difference between the two.

The Classic used to be a semi-legitimate show. The first

matchup back in 2003 featured the Edmonton Oilers and the Montreal Canadiens. There's some history there and great names on either side. It made sense. In 2011, the second game as well—the Calgary Flames against the Montreal Canadiens—was a similar story. This third game in Canada though is a bit of a reach. The Vancouver Canucks and the Ottawa Senators? The inspiration is supposedly the 1915 Stanley Cup Final between the Vancouver Millionaires and the original Ottawa Senators, and the retro jerseys will reflect that, but it's really just a straight-up farce. If I want symbolism I'll go take an English lit class. Don't try to conjure up some storyline to give two teams with no history some kind of a rivalry. Call it a regular game played outside and I'm far more likely to support it.

The draw for the Classic is that it's a spectacle—a rarely occurring event that everyone should be fighting tooth and nail to see. However, by increasing the frequency of the games over

the years, the league is slowly killing the appeal. They're now becoming nothing more than expensive matches with poor sight lines. Ever been to a football game and felt your seats didn't provide an adequate view of the action? Try shrinking the area of play to a small ice rink in the middle of a stadium and change that big brown football into a tiny black puck—and then charge yourself an extra \$100.

The series is fabricated. I get that. But playing in Vancouver just adds to how artificial it is. A game under BC Place's retractable roof is a far cry from the real outdoors. That said, when was the last time anyone in Vancouver skated outside (Robson Rink doesn't count)? It's just not done. So, to sum up this year's game, it's two teams with no connection whatsoever other than their cities once had different hockey teams that played in a final, playing an "outdoor" game in a stadium with a retractable roof, in a city that never gets cold enough to actually skate outside. Fantastic.



Crews work to construct the temporary arena and ice surface inside BC Place Stadium // By Cam Tucker

Daughter from the Land of the Rising Sun

» Nanaya Miki helps take women's basketball to new heights



Courtnie Martin
Sports Reporter

Just one of a handful of PACWEST international players, Nanaya Miki has made a name for herself more than 4,500 miles away from home. Born in Osaka, Japan, Miki has played basketball for as long as she can remember. It was always her dream to venture off into the world and explore her passion.

Leaving her home to pursue post-secondary education in a foreign country, she found herself in Washington, where she played for Skagit Valley Community College. After a gruelling transition of adapting to both a new language and teammates, her efforts paid off. Skagit hosted an annual holiday tournament that would change her life drastically. In the championship game of the tournament, Skagit faced Douglas College. The game was intense, and at the end of the 40-minute mark Douglas came

out on top to win by one point, but Miki was the real winner.

Miki found herself intrigued with yet another country and the opportunity to continue furthering her education. Douglas College welcomed her in the summer of 2013. She taught her new team her Japanese traditions while her new Canadian family taught her theirs. She quickly grew a strong relationship with her teammates.

"I would say Nay is one of the kindest, most honest, and loyal people I have ever come across. She is always motivating her teammates, but is strong and not afraid to speak her mind. She constantly checks up on me and is a great teammate and friend—not to mention she is hilarious and it's fun to see her goofy side," says first-year player Amber Beasley.

Miki instantly made a huge impact on the program. Her vivacious will-power and phenomenal athleticism on the court leaves the crowd and opponents respecting her talent. Coming off the bench, Miki

contributed as many as 21 points in a single game for Douglas this season.

The fifth-seeded Royals came into Provincials after a clutch win against Langara College, where they were do-or-die and blew out their competitor. Miki, of course, was instrumental in helping to secure a Provincial berth for the Royals. Going into playoffs, Douglas faced Capilano University where Miki had an electrifying 21 points and was named player of the game. She continued to impress in the next game as she put up 19 points against the #1 seed, the Vancouver Island University Mariners, to lead the Royals to a huge upset in overtime. Although the Royals ultimately lost in the final to Quest, Miki made the Tournament All-Star team and can certainly be proud of her efforts.

Miki lives by the Japanese quote, "Kumo no munou ha itumo aozora," which translates to, "There is always light behind the clouds."



Nanaya Miki // By Scott Terrell/Skagit Valley Herald

Sport/Schmort: Beer Pong

» Drunken debacle, or drunk(er) darts?



Natalie Serafini
Assistant Editor
✉ assistant
@theotherpress.ca

At some point during their academic careers, most college kids will eventually find themselves at one end of a table, facing a pyramid configuration of cups, with a pingpong ball in hand. The game is beer pong, and hazy vision and an inability to stand up straight for more than a brief moment before swinging like a pendulum make it both challenging and entertaining. Beer pong is a well-known and -loved game. It involves throwing and sinking a

pingpong ball into a Solo Cup filled with cheap beer, then forcing your opponent to down said Solo Cup of alcohol. Some people might rush to classify this time-honoured tradition as a simple drinking game, but I'm not so quick to judge.

According to the official rules on BPong.com, beer pong can be an individual competition, or can be played in teams of two. The basic rules are that players aim to get pingpong balls into their opponents' cups. If the ball gets in, the cup is taken away and the opponent downs the contents. If both teammates sink their balls in their opponents' cups, they get the opportunity to shoot again;

otherwise, the balls are in the other team's court, and play continues. The team that forces their opponents to drink all the contents of all their cups wins.

Specifics of the rules make the game trickier. To start, games must begin by establishing the controversial Elbow/Wrist Rule. The rule states that players must ensure their elbows don't cross the boundary line of the table edge while throwing; sometimes this rule extends to placing limitations on wrists as well. Implementation of the rule is often up for debate, due to the difficulty in determining whether there has been an elbow/wrist infraction.

Rules state that re-racking requests can be made a maximum of two times per game. Sticking to this limit will of course depend on how big of a stickler you're playing against. Essentially, re-racking facilitates the sinking of balls by arranging the cups into specific configurations—see BPong.com's section on Typical Beer Pong House Rules for

more information. Requests to fix cups should not be confused with re-racking: fixing cups can be done anytime, and as many times as necessary, to put cups back where they would have been if not for drunken jostling.

The bouncing rule is your shot at redemption if you find yourself approaching the loser's circle: if you manage to bounce a ball on the table before having it capsize in a foamy cup of beer, you have the option of forcing your opponent to down not one, but two cups, due to the difficulty of the deed.

House rules may vary from house to house, or from rule-maker to drunk rule-maker. Essentially, the main aim of the game is to sink balls in cups and to not get too drunk; get those rules down, implement them, and you're golden like the beer you'll be forcing others to drink.

This could turn into a controversial ruling, but beer pong strikes me as a sport in the same way that darts are: you might not initially agree because it lacks the physical feats of football, and because the game

easily allows for jokes, laughter, drinking, and maybe a quick smoking break; nonetheless, even with these possible protestations, beer pong is indeed a sport.

Some people say that any "sport" during which you can sip, sup, swig, or drink heavily isn't really a sport; I disagree. I say that the drunker you are during a sport, the more difficult it is, and consequently, the more sporty it is. Because beer pong not only permits, but facilitates and encourages drinking, I have no choice but to deem it a sport. If anyone disagrees, I would suggest they throw back a series of tequila and rum shots, nurse a few beers, then attempt to stand up straight while throwing pingpong balls at cups.

Beer pong requires very precise aim in order to keep opponents drinking; it requires training and endurance, especially in ability to hold your liquor; trash talk is inherent to the sport, and any little fumble could cost you a match. A drunk sport is a sport nonetheless.



Silver linings

» Women's basketball surprises at Provincials



Eric Wilkins
Sports Editor
✉ sports
@theotherpress.ca

The women's basketball team had a bit of an up-and-down year. On their way to compiling an 8-13 record, there were some big wins and some tough losses, but they'd found a way to win when it mattered, clinching their berth at the Provincial tournament with a victory over Langara in the final week of the regular season.

In the quarterfinal matchup, the Royals took on the #4 seed, the Capilano University Blues. The Blues, with a 10-11 record, had to be feeling good about their chances heading in. Capilano took the first four points of the game, but then Douglas' offence exploded. After a Mackenzie Brenner layup with four minutes left in the quarter, the Royals went on a 15-point run—completely shutting out the Blues. The game continued in much the same way, including a dominant third that left the tournament hosts on top 70-39 thanks to some solid all-round team play. When the final buzzer went, the Royals were going to the semi-final on the back of an 82-58 win.

If the Royals weren't huge

underdogs in the quarterfinal, they sure were for the semi. The Vancouver Island University (VIU) Mariners had set a PACWEST record with 20 wins in the regular season, sweeping Douglas 3-0 along the way. To open the game, the Mariners played like the #1 seed should, racing out to an 11-1 lead. But then, things changed. After two baskets from Nanaya Miki and a three at the buzzer to end the quarter from Chloe Kennedy, the game had shifted from a possible blowout to a tight one-point game. After almost three more quarters of the low-scoring affair, the Royals found themselves down 43-38 with just over three minutes left.

Then, in one of the clutch performances of the year, Kennedy drained a three with 1:52 left and Brenner found a way to tie it up with 1:01 until the buzzer. No scoring in the final minute meant the teams were heading to a five-minute overtime session. In OT, it came down to the last minute. With 33.4 seconds on the clock and the Royals down by two, Adelia Paul took to the free-throw line—and sunk them both. After another stymied VIU attack, Kennedy snagged the ball and took it the distance. She then hit a free-throw with 10 seconds

left for a three-point lead. VIU's last chance came on an inbounds pass with .5 seconds to go, but the Royals shut the door. The game ended with a score of 50-47. Douglas was going to be playing for gold.

Kennedy was thrilled with the result against VIU: "It was such an amazing feeling knowing that we played our absolute best out there and came through with a win against a really strong, veteran team. It feels so much better when you win knowing that you were considered the underdog."

The Quest University Kermodes were riding a streak that had seen them win 10 of their last 11 games (including the quarter- and semi-finals of the tournament), but with the way the Royals were playing, both the players and the crowd had to think anything was possible. Just like the game against VIU, the Royals found themselves down early. A few minutes into the second frame, Douglas was down 23-12, but then, just as in the semi-final, they found a way back: 28-24 at half. Unfortunately, that was the end of the Royals' bid for gold. The third-quarter saw Quest outscore the hosts 27-13 before a back-and-forth final 10 minutes finished the game with the Kermodes on top 69-52.



By Douglas College Campus Life and Athletics (Flickr)

While obviously disappointed with not winning gold, coach Courtney Gerwing was pleased with the team's efforts: "Tough to finish the season with a lost but we played hard. We gave away too many defensively in the third quarter and we dug ourselves a hole we couldn't get out of. But I'm incredibly proud of the way the team played through that whole game and the whole provincial tournament. We were ready to go and I think we surprised a few people, but I don't think we surprised ourselves because we knew the progress we had been making each week and we really improved our team

chemistry—I think that showed." Gerwing also had a message for the Royal faithful, "Thanks to the fans, to our Douglas college student athletes, and to our families and friends who came out to support us; as it really meant a lot that the gym was packed and loud, and we felt like there was a real force that rallied behind us all tournament."

In addition to the team accomplishments, Miki and Kennedy were named to the Tournament All-Star Team. With no fifth-years, and some impressive development this season, these Royals will be a force to be reckoned with next fall.

Always forward

» Men's basketball reflects on the season



Courtne Martin
Sports Reporter

After a bit of a bumpy road this year, the men's basketball team has much to look forward to next season. At the start of the season, they were looking far from connected. However, after finishing with a 7-14 record and a Provincial berth, the young team certainly has some good moments to look back on.

One such moment was when they secured a "W" against Capilano University in week nine when terrific plays from Ryan Hopson and Andrew Baron in the last 30 seconds of the game gave the Royals a one-point win. The Royals also fell just short of victory against the powerhouse Vancouver Island University Mariners 83-79 in week five, proving that the team can hold their own with the big boys.

"Overall the season was positive. It was the most rewarding year of coaching I've had yet, and the guys were great to coach," said coach Denis

Beausoleil. He added, "I thought we grew a lot as a team and everyone showed flashes of how good they can be in the years to come."

Two players were recognized for their hard work and tremendous talent by not only the Douglas College community but the PACWEST community as well. Andrew Baron was in the top 10 for all three categories of points, assists, and rebounds per game. Baron was also nominated as PACWEST second team All-Star. Baron averaged 15.85 points per game, 8.85 rebounds, and 3.6 assists.

"It was an up-and-down ride for sure. I think we surpassed some of the external expectations placed on us, but we also didn't come nearly as close to our personal goals as we wanted. It was by far my best experience as a part of the DC basketball program. I think with such a young core, if we add some pieces here and there we could really make some noise in the next few years to come," said Baron.

Rookie Grant Campbell was no slouch himself, as he put up more than 30 points on more

than one occasion. Campbell was nominated to the All-Rookie team with 16.48 points per game.

"This year exemplified a roller coaster. We've had ups, downs, comebacks, and blowouts. We started off with 16 guys and finished with nine. It's tough finishing the way we did knowing the potential we had starting off the season," remarked Campbell. He continued, reflecting on his personal feelings: "It went by way too fast. I can remember my first game in November like it was yesterday. As a first-year I didn't know what to expect; I wish I savoured it more."

Alongside Baron and Campbell there have definitely been other impact players. Ethan McKean made numerous clutch three-pointers to swing the momentum into Douglas' favour; one of the team captains, Kristian Hildebrandt, also had a gorgeous three ball; and Bradyn Norris made some tremendous moves to the basket. With another year of experience under their belts, this squad is ready to take it to another level next season.



By Douglas College Campus Life and Athletics (Flickr)

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Your next move will set your career in motion

College transfer student Courtney Lockhart always knew she wanted to pursue a career in politics. What she didn't know was that a degree from the University of Lethbridge would take her from Lethbridge all the way to Capitol Hill.

Courtney secured a co-op position at Global Centurion in Washington, D.C., an organization focused on the abolition of modern slavery. Not only did Courtney see former U.S.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton give a speech at the Department of State, but her work allowed her to see the impact of human rights advocacy first-hand.

Recognized on the national stage as one of Canada's top-three undergraduate institutions (2014 Maclean's University Rankings) and one of Canada's top-three undergraduate research universities (RESEARCH Infosource, 2013),

uLethbridge provides students opportunities to take their education outside the classroom – something that Courtney says gave her insight into future jobs.

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This issue:

- ✓ Boring sport reinvented with a modern, 'Hunger Games'-style twist
 - ✓ Brick & Derision
 - ✓ Twenty-something ennui meets the undead
- And more!

Been told you're too funny?
Contact: Sharon Miki, Humour Editor
✉ humour@theotherpress.ca
www.theotherpress.ca

'Leo DiCaprio is my best friend and I don't care who knows it'

» Jonah Hill's Oscars acceptance speech



At Sunday's 86th Academy Awards, internationally acclaimed thespian Jonah Hill lost out in the Best Actor in a Supporting Role category for his breathtaking performance in *The Wolf of Wall Street*. While audiences were deeply saddened to be denied the glory of Hill's anticipated acceptance speech, the Other Press has received exclusive access to what we are fairly sure might be Hill's acceptance speech. For your consideration:

Please, please, sit down. No seriously, sit down. Yeah, I'm talking to you, James Franco. I don't fucking need you anymore.
[pause for dramatic effect]
Ladies and gentlemen of the Academy, you are about to witness a murder.

[pause for reaction]
Yeah, you heard me. I have been plotting, planning, waiting for this moment for years. The moment where I can finally kill "Jonah Hill, Michael Cera's fat friend" and emerge, like a beautiful genius butterfly trapped in a cocoon of Judd Apatow's lukewarm comedy, as my true self: Oscar-winner Jonah Hill Feldstein, Leonardo DiCaprio's best friend forever.
When I was younger, people used to laugh at me—you assholes, actually. You all used to say "Jonah, you're too big and your eyes are too crazy or your delivery is over the top." You told me I was the worst thing about *Superbad*. You made fun of my weight, and then you made Tumblrs about how I look like a skinny ventriloquist's doll when I lost the weight, and then you called me "Superfat" when I put a little back on.
[pause to smirk at that stupid, handsome loser Bradley Cooper]

Well, while you guys were busy being total dicks, I just stayed at home, worked on my craft, and re-watched my *Titanic* two-tape VHS box set until I could play the part of Rose in my sleep. And then I did that. I played the part of Rose from *Titanic* in my sleep for, like, 10 years.
[pause for uproarious laughter]
Well, now I'm standing here before you: I am now Leo's best friend, Martin Scorsese's protégé, and a mother-bleeping Oscar-winner. Now that I've won this award, I can finally tell you all how much I hate you. Now that I am no longer Jonah "no real friends" Hill, now that I am Academy Award-winner Jonah "no new friends because Leo's my bff" Hill, I can finally—for the first time in my godforsaken life—be happy.
[hoist Oscar statuette above head, mightily]
Thank you, and FU.
[literally drop the mic]



Jonah Hill at the 86th Academy Awards // www.ibtimes.com

MIDTERM MAD LIBS MADNESS!

World's Greatest Word Game

Midterms are (1)_____. All this studying and (2)_____ and testing. And for what? A grade that (3)_____ employers probably won't even care about. But, that's how it goes. We'll just have to bunker down, chug a couple of (4)_____, and see what happens. I guess I should head to the (5)_____.
Test day, round one. Sure wish I hadn't stayed up all night (6)_____. I mean, I meant to (7)_____. But it was just too (8)_____. When someone asks you to come out to a (9)_____, it's pretty hard to say (10)_____. Free (11)_____ too! What's a (12)_____ to do? It's okay though, if I get 50 per cent I'll still pass the class. But tonight, seriously, (13)_____ time.
Test day, round two. (14)_____. I messed up again. I mean, sure, I could have (15)_____. But come on. (16)_____ was on. And like, I couldn't not (17)_____ during the (18)_____. It's okay though. I'll just (19)_____ through this one. Or maybe I could (20)_____.
On a more serious note, the Other Press wishes everyone the best of luck on their upcoming tests! You should definitely (21)_____, and use this as a how-to-pass-your-test guide. Save the copious (22)_____ till after!

Word Bank

- 1. Adjective
- 2. Verb ending in "ing"
- 3. Adjective
- 4. Favourite kind of drink, plural
- 5. A place at Douglas College
- 6. Verb ending in "ing"
- 7. Unproductive activity
- 8. Adjective
- 9. Place you go to at night

- 10. The answer you would give to the last person you spoke to asking you out
- 11. Something you'd consume
- 12. An occupation
- 13. Verb
- 14. Your favourite expletive
- 15. Something you do when you think no one's watching, ending with "ed"

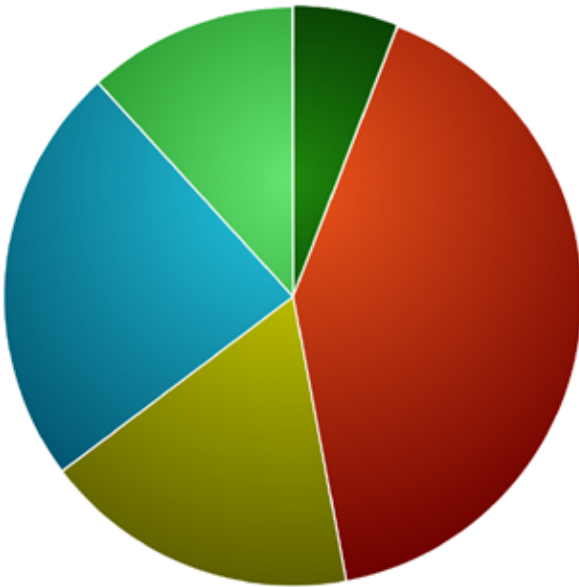
- 16. Your mom's fave show
- 17. Rhymes with "sink"
- 18. An event you'd sit through
- 19. Type of locomotion
- 20. Another type of locomotion
- 21. Anything other than "study"
- 22. Verb your mother wouldn't want you to take part in, ending in "ing"

By Allie Davison, Contributor

Unofficial official poll:

'What are you really doing during class?'

By Sharon Miki, Humour Editor



- Listening attentively and learning the course materials
- Cunningly checking Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, or Twitter underneath the table
- Thinking of a way to start a conversation with that hot guy/girl across the room
- Fantasizing about being/being with Beyoncé
- Daydreaming about lunch

*Note: this is officially unofficial

'Biathlon Battle Royale' for more viewers

» Boring sport reinvented with a modern, 'Hunger Games'-style twist



Aidan Mouellic
Staff Writer

In the wake of dwindling viewership and their sport becoming basically obscure, members of the International Biathlon Federation (IBF) have voted in new "Biathlon Battle Royale" rules to take effect next season.

"Biathlon is no longer exciting enough for younger and newer viewers—they want action, they want thrills," said IBF chairman Walther Peepikay.

Under the new rules, biathletes will no longer just be shooting stationary targets—they will also be shooting each other. Racers will still ski and shoot targets, but after a certain time has elapsed in the race, they will be allowed to shoot one another with rapid tranquillizer bullets. The new bullets are safe, but they eliminate the chance of finishing the race if hit with one. The tranquillizer drops a skier faster than a failed doping test, and will keep them knocked out for close to five hours.

The rifles used in biathlon typically fire .22 caliber bullets

that would be deadly to the athletes. The IBF realized that they need competitors alive to keep the sport alive, so they have introduced a fast-acting tranquillizer bullet that will become standard issue on the racing circuit and facilitates the new Battle Royale race format.

Norwegian doctors have spent over two years developing the high-tech ammunition under a thick cloak of secrecy. One of the doctors, who wished to not be named, told us that the first few prototypes developed were awful: "We would shoot a test subject and they would stumble for minutes and then be out cold for days." After a long period of tweaking and changing the design of the cartridges, the doctors succeeded in developing the ammunition that acts fast and stays in the system for a shorter period.

Most athletes are not keen on the rule changes. Biathlete Geoff Clark of Los Angeles tells the *Other Press* that, "In the neighbourhood I live in, I have to dodge bullets on the way to Whole Foods. I became a biathlete to avoid being shot and now I will be shot; it sucks but at least I won't die."

The IBF realized that they need competitors alive to keep the sport alive, so they have introduced a fast-acting tranquillizer bullet

Still, the IBF stands behind their decision and thinks that it's a win-win solution to dwindling viewership numbers.

"We get our viewership numbers up on television, and no athlete has to get shot with real bullets to achieve the result of increased advertising revenue," explained Peepikay. "It's a situation with no losers, we all benefit from this—the public gets entertained, the athletes get to live, and the IBF increases revenues."

Clearly, biathlon is heading in a more violent direction, and time will only tell if the changes will be welcomed by the rest of the sporting world. For the time being though, it seems that the sport has found a way to stay relevant in a world seeking thrilling violence in sports.



By Joel McCarthy

'Girls' and 'The Walking Dead' announce March sweeps crossover episode

» Twenty-something ennui meets the undead



Sharon Miki
Humour Editor
✉ humour@theotherpress.ca

In a move unprecedented in television history, AMC and HBO announced yesterday an innovative new plan to dominate Sunday evening ratings, just in time for March sweeps: a crossover episode linking the hit shows *The Walking Dead* and *Girls*.

"It's the best of both worlds," said AMC president Mark McMoney. "You've got the thrilling suspense of characters navigating their way through a horrifying world filled with vacant, violent souls... and then you also have the zombies from *The Walking Dead*."

The episode, which is slated to air on Sunday, March 9, is rumoured to feature popular *Girls* characters Hannah and Marnie as they go on a road trip to save their ailing friendship. Little do the girls know, the trip will be interrupted by a horde of undead individuals. Only young Carl, from *The Walking Dead*, can rescue the girls—but will his big hat be enough to fight off the walkers? And what happens when Hannah decides she wants to have sex with one particularly attractive zombie (to gain life experience to write about on her new blog)?

"Am I worried about sharing screen time with bloody, deadly, horrible beings? Not really," noted *Girls* creator and star, Lena Dunham. "I mean, have you seen Jessa?"



By Joel McCarthy

Lol Lola

By Maria Asselin-Roy & Sharon Miki

Lola loves her new “Lola Del Rey-style” hairdo, but it makes her wonder:



Jerrison Oracion
Contributor

Goodnight Sochi.
Goodnight the Black Sea.
Goodnight coastal cluster.
Goodnight mountain cluster.

Goodnight Vladimir Putin.
Goodnight Thomas Bach.
Goodnight Team Canada.
Goodnight Olympic mittens.

Goodnight hot air and cold air.
Goodnight Canadian Olympic double medalists.
Goodnight Gilmore Julio who gave Denny Morrison a second chance.

Goodnight skiers that were tied.
Goodnight the polar bear, the hare, and the leopard.
Goodnight Yuzuru Hanyu who beat Patrick Chan with a world record short program.
Goodnight Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir who could have got a gold medal.
Goodnight figure skating judges that could have gave Yuna Kim a gold medal.

Goodnight successful Canadian hockey and curling teams.
Goodnight Andi Petrillo and Andrew Chang.
Goodnight Ron Maclean.
Goodnight athletes everywhere.

WAFFLE HOUR



By **Mel Freylinger**
Contributor



Brick & Derision

By Lindsey Florio & Sharon Miki



Larry was starting to realize that his master's degree in early modern literature wasn't going to make this macchiato extra-hot.

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March 6, 11-3 NWC Concourse
March 17, 11-3 DLC A/B Atrium

ACTIVITIES:

- Contribute to our community blanket
- View the mini film festival
- Leave a message on our graffiti wall
- Come learn more about the Idle No More movement

...bringing together our large community of students, faculty and staff to celebrate how we all contribute to building and supporting community alongside our indigenous brothers and sisters.



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SILVER
at the PacWest
Provincial Championships



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